

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
August 16, 2018



BERNHARD LANGER

CHRIS RICHARDS: Bernhard, thank you for joining us this morning, Dick's Sporting Goods Open 2018. I know after the Senior Open you took a little vacation. Can you tell us about how your time in Germany was?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, it was awesome. We had fantastic weather, very warm, sunny. Did some bicycle riding. Visited some friends who have a home on a lake, so we did some swimming and a little ping pong and badminton. Played a little bit of golf, not a great deal, not too much. Just enjoyed seeing my mother. She actually turned 95 while I was at home and my brother was my neighbor, so we hung out with them and just had some good relaxing family time all together. That was about nine days, and then we came back to Florida for a couple days, repacked, regrouped and now we're here.

CHRIS RICHARDS: I know that when you go on vacation you like to really take some time off. How do you feel coming back from vacation? Do you have that excitement still to get back into the rhythm of practicing and competing?

BERNHARD LANGER: Oh, yeah. There's more excitement actually, or more willingness to put some effort into it to shake the rust off if there is any. I'm excited about the next three months, basically the end of our season and the stretch, the finishing stretch that's coming up. I'm going to play nine out of the last 10 and try and make a push for the Schwab Cup and anything else that's on the line.

CHRIS RICHARDS: And you're starting this home stretch here in Endicott where you've won and you're certainly familiar with the crowds and community support that we have here. What's it like to play in a town like this?

BERNHARD LANGER: It's phenomenal. It's really great to see the turnout they have here year after year, even with some of the bad weather they've been having and other circumstances. But the people really embrace it around here. They come from all over the place and come by here and try and watch some great golf and it shows. The atmosphere is phenomenal. Friday also with the concert and all of that, it's a great touch what the tournament does there to make people aware of the event and bring them in year after year.

Q. Bernhard, in your opinion, how does this year's field compare to possibly others in years prior?

BERNHARD LANGER: You know, I don't pay a great deal of attention to the field most of the time, but I would think it's pretty good this year. I think the date is good. We just had a week off, so it's not -- the tournament's not competing with other tournaments where we

have three or four in a row, so I think that should be in the advantage. And I think what I seem to remember, I saw some of the names in the pro-am or for the draw sheet, it looks like a very strong field.

Q. You had success here in the past. How do you feel about playing on this course again?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I feel great. I like the golf course, it's very traditional. It's all in front of you, you've just got to hit it really straight, that's the key. There's trees left and right, sometimes water and rough, so you have to drive the ball straight to have any hope of attacking the pin or making birdies. If you're hitting it sideways, you're going to be struggling for pars and bogeys and maybe sometimes worse.

Q. Did you have a chance to see the course yesterday after all the flooding?

BERNHARD LANGER: No, I did not. I saw some pictures, but I was going to play a practice round on Tuesday, which wasn't possible, and so I'm going to take today and have a good look while I play the pro-am.

Q. Have you ever seen another course kind of in that sort of detrimental condition?

BERNHARD LANGER: Oh, yeah, it happens all over the world. Whenever you're in a floodplain or near a river or creeks or anything like that, if you have the kind of weather that you've been having here for the last three weeks, I guess, it can happen anywhere. Sometimes it doesn't take three weeks, it just takes a couple of days and, you know, Mother Nature is pretty incredible.

Q. Are you a Blake Shelton fan?

BERNHARD LANGER: Not really, actually, but that doesn't mean that I don't like his music. It's just I'm not following anybody as such. I just like listening to good music here and there, but I often don't know who's the singer, so that doesn't mean anything. I'm sure I will enjoy his music. Actually, my daughter-in-law is the biggest fan, she really -- that's her No. 1 artist and she's really excited to hear him in person.

Q. Bernhard, thank you for coming and supporting the Dick's Sporting Goods Open and all the great things it does in the community through the charity. Can you talk a little bit off the course maybe what's the most inspirational or heartfelt moment you had or interaction with people or situation off the course over the years? What's inspired you about this area of the country?

BERNHARD LANGER: Just how they embrace us, how welcoming they are and they know the golf and they just appreciate that we would travel from all over the world to come here and participate in this tournament. Many times you don't hear that, they just expect it's normal, that's what they're supposed to do. But here, people go out of their way and

say, "We really thank you and appreciate that you're here this year again and supporting this event." We're raising money for charities, for local charities and the tournament is good, it brings in lots of money for the region.

Q. You've had some success here in the past. What do you remember about the championship round and maybe reflect on that as you play again?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, I liked the golf course from the very beginning. First time I saw it, and one of my best memories is when my daughter caddied for me and I won. Funny incident, as you probably recall, she asked me, "Can I take the flag as a keepsake on 18?" I said, "Sure, you can, every caddie does it." Once we putted out, she put the flag in and untied the top of it and walked off. We totally forgot there was a group behind us, we thought it was kind of finished and over. That was a senior moment of mine, so she had to run back and put the flag back on so the group behind could see where the pin was located.

Q. Did she get it?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, she got it afterwards.

Q. Is she caddying for you this year?

BERNHARD LANGER: No, no, that was just once or twice a year where my kids caddie for me. I have a professional caddie, he makes a living doing that and he's on for the next -- for the end of the season.

Q. Having so much success here and coming here many times, does the feeling ever kind of change or does it say the same?

BERNHARD LANGER: No, it's pretty much the same. You like certain places and the more often I come here, the more familiar I am, where the grocery store may be, what the hotel is like, and you're more familiar with everything, so it's actually nice. It's not quite like coming home, but you know what I'm saying. It's not like going to a place the first time and everything is unknown and uncertain. It's good to know where things are and you don't get lost and you don't have to search for places.

Q. What's your favorite local restaurant or place that you've been here?

BERNHARD LANGER: I'm a big fan of Thai food and there's one or two on Vestal Parkway that I've really enjoyed over the years. One shut down, but I think another one opened up, so going to have to check that one out.

Q. Dick's Sporting Goods has taken an active leadership role in saving youth sports in our country, you know, Sports Matter. From your experience, maybe from your homeland in Germany, how would you turn kids on to sports? Any sort of insight to how to make sports matter and grow them in our country?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, we know sports matters, especially golf where we have such a clean environment in terms of our etiquette and the character traits and honesty, integrity, all those things that are taught in the game of golf. We all know kids love sports. I mean, I was a kid, I remember I loved everything and anything, whether it had to do with a ball or anything that moved or just me moving, it was fun. So we've just got to give kids opportunities and they will embrace them. Just give them the opportunity to, you know, give them a golf club and a ball and the opportunity to go somewhere, driving range or a golf course and most of them will love the game and probably continue to play for the rest of their lives if they can afford it.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Thank you very much, Bernhard, and good luck this week.

BERNHARD LANGER: Thank you, appreciate it.